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Idaho Department of Water Resources



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Energy Division Launches New Solar Electric Program

For Immediate Release Boise, Idaho – June 17, 2005 For Media Information Contact: John Crockett (208) 287-4894

The Idaho Energy Division is offering a new program that will allow Idahoans interested in purchasing solar electric systems, either on or off-grid, to get free site assessments by qualified solar dealers/installers. The Division hopes the rebate program will encourage the installation of more solar electric systems in Idaho.

Those interested in the site assessments should select and contact a dealer from the listing of consultants and dealers on the Idaho Energy Division's website, www.idahosolar.org and request a solar system design, site evaluation and price quote.

All site inspections must be done in Idaho. Systems may be for home, commercial or water pumping systems for federal, state/local governments, utilities, businesses or private individuals. Systems must be new, 200 watts or greater. Upgrades to existing systems and small applications, such as use by recreational vehicles, do not qualify.

Dealers will supply each potential solar system owner with a copy of the Idaho Customer Information Booklet, a sun chart and a completed site evaluation form. The booklet is a non-technical reference handbook that describes the components of a solar electric system, how it works, how to do a load assessment, financing available and other information.

Each dealer/installer must submit a copy of the completed evaluation form to the Division in order to qualify for the rebate: \$75 for an on-grid assessment and \$175 for an off-grid assessment.

"The dealers get the rebates to offset the costs of site inspections, especially those in remote areas," said John Crockett, renewable energy specialist for the Idaho Energy Division. "The potential system owner gets the inspection done at no cost. This step is vital to learning whether or not the location is a viable one for using solar electricity."

Funds for the rebates are limited, and the Division expects that about 50 rebates will be made on a first come, first-served basis.

The Division reserves the right to verify the site assessment information with the customer and to limit the number of evaluations each dealer may submit.

Idahoans who may have questions about the rebate can contact (Ms.) K.T. Hanna at the Idaho Energy Division in Boise via telephone at 208-287-4898.